





# MARYLAND COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

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CONDUCTED BY JAMES HALL, GENERAL AGENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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“Nothing is more clearly written in the Book of Destiny, than the Emancipation of the Blacks; and it is equally certain that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government, so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit and opinion have established between them.”

JEFFERSON.

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## FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

In presenting their Fourteenth Annual Report, the Board of Managers have again the satisfaction of announcing the uninterrupted and increasing prosperity of the Colony of Maryland in Liberia; and of expressing their grateful sense of that Divine protection which has been accorded to it during the past year.

The Kent, a brig of 150 tons, sailed from Baltimore for the Colony on the 15th November. She carried out but 14 emigrants. The Board attribute the smallness of the number to the loss which they sustained, during the summer, of the Rev. Mr. Roberts, on whom, as their travelling agent, devolved the duty of collecting the emigrants for each expedition,—a duty requiring an intimate knowledge of the several counties of the State, and an acquaintance with the colored persons likely to become emigrants. Although the Board proceeded at once to appoint a successor, yet it was with no hope that he would be able so far to supply the place of Mr. Roberts as to get up the usual Fall Expedition. The result was that the number of emigrants was confined to that mentioned above.

It would be omitting an act of justice, were the Board not to take the present opportunity of expressing their sense of the zeal, singleness of purpose, and worth of their late travelling agent: and in his loss, not only have the Board to lament a useful officer, but the cause of Colonization, a warm and devoted friend.

In the despatches received, for some time past, from the Colony, the Agent, Gov. Russwurm, has dwelt upon the want of a suitable vessel, in which to prosecute the trade, connected with the Society's operations, to the windward and leeward of Cape Palmas. As soon as they felt satisfied of the importance of such a vessel, the Board determined, in place of sending one from this country, to send a model of a Schooner of 50 tons, with a competent ship carpenter to put it up in the Colony, and at the same time to send all the materials and naval stores that would be required, and which could not be obtained at Cape Palmas. They accordingly procured from Messrs. Gardiner, well known as among the best of our ship builders, a complete set of models, and they were fortunate enough to find a colored man

named Major Bolon, who was in the employment of the Messrs. Gardiner, and who, at first agreeing to go out as carpenter to put up the vessel and return to this country, finally, after enquiry, resolved to become an emigrant, and make, with his family, his permanent home in the Colony.—His capacity and high respectability make him a valuable acquisition; and the first effort of his skill will be to introduce upon the Coast of Africa, for the purposes of peaceful and honorable commerce, that peculiar and celebrated class of vessels, which as Baltimore Clippers, has become known over the world.

Several objects will be attained by sending the model, instead of the vessel, to Africa.—The outlay of her construction will be a service to the Colony: employment will be given to a good many of the colonists while she is being built: the building will be a matter of pride and interest: the example may lead to the building of others; and especially an admirable model will be furnished, to serve for future use. At the old Colony, vessels have been built for several years past. The one, whose model is now sent out, will be the first built at Cape Palmas.

At the last session of the Legislature of Maryland 1844-5, a charter was obtained for the Chesapeake and Liberia Trading Company, with the expectation that a large, if not the largest portion of the Stock, would be taken by colored persons,—the object being to establish a regular trade between the Chesapeake and the Colony.—The State Society and the Am. Col. Society both agreed to give their business to the vessels of the company, and subscriptions to a considerable amount were obtained, chiefly among the free people of color in Baltimore, and the citizens of the Colony.—The uncertain condition of the political relations of the United States have made it a matter of prudence to await the turn of events, before going on with the plan of the trading company: but this much is ascertained, that as soon as there are no reasons to apprehend war, the plan can be carried into immediate, and, it is not doubted, successful operation. The subscriptions obtained for the Cape Palmas Packet will form a part of the capital of the Company.

In their last Annual Report the Board announced, that, the time having arrived when in their opinion the Colonists were able to contribute measurably to the support of their Government, and the prosecution of their public improvements in Africa, a Tariff had been adopted and transmitted to Governor Russwurm. After being modified at the instance of the Colonists, it finally went into operation; and has already been a source of revenue quite as productive as the Board could have anticipated. A difficulty which the Board found trouble in obviating, grew out of the predilection of the Colonists for a duty—if *any* duty was to be levied—upon *sales* and not upon *imports*. But on this point, the Board could not yield, although it gave them much satisfaction to consult the wishes of the Colonists as to the *rate* of duty. A duty on sales was essentially an excise, requiring, to enforce it, the right of collectors to make searches, administer oaths, and exercise powers inconsistent with the liberties of a free people. But the time spent in the discussions, consequent upon this difference of opinion—across the Atlantic—was not wasted. The Tariff of duties on imports, was at last made satisfactory to the Colonists, and being accompanied by the warehousing system, was freed

from an objection at first urged against it, that those only, who could afford to advance the duties, could engage in trade—thus throwing aside competitors of limited means. In its present shape, the Custom House system of the Colony, which has been copied from that of this country, meets with the approbation of the Colonists, and is in efficient operation. All this is mentioned here, because, although it may perhaps seem to partake of magniloquence, to speak of a Tariff whose productiveness is limited to some \$1200 per annum, yet the principles involved are the same as those which have occupied the attention, here and in Europe, of the greatest and wisest Statesmen, and their influence may, and probably will, be destined to extend, far and near, around the Colony in Africa, that has been the first to adopt them. The revenue from the Tariff for seven months, up to the 1st September, was \$500, making an annual revenue, when the shipments made by the State Society come to be included, of about \$1,100.

In their former Reports, the Board of Managers have taken occasion to speak of the Light-house, built by the Colonists at the extremity of the Cape. This is in constant use, and the light-house dues, which it authorises the Government to exact from vessels visiting the Colony, form an important part of the revenue.

The importance of the geographical position of Cape Palmas, in a commercial point of view, has often been dwelt upon by the Board. It is apparent from an inspection of the map. The commerce of the Colony must one day become large and most important. Its revenue must increase in proportion. The education of the people—the prosecution of their public improvements, especially the extension to the interior, of broad and well-constructed avenues, in place of the narrow foot paths along which trade now finds its way to the beach—all this will be the result of the recent Tariff, in which the Colonists will hereafter recognize the most important element of prosperity and independence. Applied to those great and cardinal objects, education and internal improvements, the large and ample revenue which must one day flow from the commerce of Cape Palmas, will produce results whose beneficial influences can now hardly be anticipated.

In their last Annual Report, the Board were called upon to mention the difficulties with the natives which led to the visit of Commodore Perry. These, although settled apparently, were nevertheless believed to be ready to break out again on the first opportunity. In connection with them, a war among the native tribes girding Cape Palmas round about, was going forward, which interrupted all communication with the interior, and most materially affected the trade of the colony. The Board were, therefore, most gratified to learn by despatches from Governor Russwurm of June 9th last, that all war among the natives was at an end; that the paths to the interior were all open and free; that he had been able to make an excursion towards the interior as far as the Camwood country; and that, as a consequence, this valuable dye-wood was beginning, for the first time, to form a part of the trade of the colony. To promote and facilitate the communication with the interior, Governor Russwurm asked for authority, which was most readily granted, to commence the road to Denah, on the Cavally, which had long been in the view of the Board, but which, until now, circumstances had never seemed absolutely



to call for. A later despatch, under date of the 25th October, informs the Board that this gratifying state of things still continues.

The Board have every reason to believe that their relations with the natives are established on the basis of permanent peace. The time has long since gone by when there was reason to fear their outrages ; but it is gratifying to know that there is no occasion for the colonist, when thinking of his position in Africa, to believe that he holds it by the strong arm, against the aboriginal inhabitants.

In their last Annual Report, the Board, in referring to the proceedings at Bassa, in the old colony, in regard to a colonial vessel taken there by the boats of a British man of war, felt called upon to express their views of the relations existing between the Society in this country and its colony at Cape Palmas,—and without recapitulating all that was there stated, the conclusion was, that the sovereignty of the colony was an incident to the possession of the soil, which had been acquired, by purchase from the natives, for the use of the emigrants from this country who had settled upon it.—That these emigrants, about to form a new government, to build up a new nation, had, by their constitution, entered into an agreement *inter se*, which, under specified circumstances, to a certain extent, and for a limited time, gave to the State Society certain powers, advisory, rather, in their character ; for, without force to maintain them, the Society could only exercise them while it was the interest of the colonists that they should do so. This delegation of authority, of the kind in question, was a matter between the colonists and the society, not affecting, in any wise, the character of the former as the occupiers of the soil, the possession of which was the basis of their claim of sovereignty : and that therefore the colony was, of right, wholly independent of the political relations of the United States, or any one of them, with the other nations of the earth.

The views thus expressed have since derived importance from the aspect of public affairs ; and in their late despatches to Governor Russwurm, the Board have called his attention to the declaratory ordinance passed many years ago, putting into form the principles above stated, and to the views of the Board as expressed in the last Annual Report ; and they have suggested to him the importance of taking every opportunity to have the true character of the Colony made known and understood. The Board cannot believe that the Colonies on the Coast of Africa would require any other protection, in the event of war, than their own defenceless situation and the noble purposes for which they were established. The nation that could make war the excuse of disturbing them would subject itself to the opprobrium which attends the exertion of strength against weakness, of selfish-interest against general good, humanity and philanthropy. Still wrong has been done, and may be done again : and it is well therefore to put prominently forward the views which the Board entertain, in the hope that the relations of the Colonies with this country being well understood, the chance of wrong being done to them may be yet further removed.

The Board have every reason to believe that the colonists are a contented and happy community, attached to their home in Africa, and unwilling to exchange it for any other that could be offered to them. During the past year an agent from the British Colony of Demerara paid a visit to Cape Palmas,

and endeavoured to persuade the colonists that they would be better off in South America, under British rule, than in Africa under the government chosen by themselves. His object was the same, which, in years past, led to similar applications to the free people of color in Baltimore. Governor Russwurm gave him every facility for explaining his views to the people, and he finally succeeded in getting a deputation appointed by the small class of restless and discontented persons who are to be found in all communities, and who, without settled purposes or perseverance, look forward to change for mending their condition. The deputation, consisting of two colonists, accordingly sailed for Demerara, and had just returned, at the date of Governor Russwurm's despatches of 18th Sept. last. It is only reasonable to suppose, that efforts were made to produce a favorable impression upon them in South America : but nevertheless their report, on their return, was wholly adverse to removal. Others, they said, might leave Cape Palmas, but for their own part, they had seen quite enough, during their absence, to satisfy them, that nowhere else could they hope to have the same liberty and the same happiness as in Africa. This fact alone speaks volumes as to the satisfaction of the colonists with their situation and condition.

With respect to the feeling of the free colored people, on this side of the Atlantic, towards colonization, the Board have little to add to what they have heretofore stated in their Annual Reports. They have reason to believe that the violent opposition, which they have heretofore noticed, no longer exists among them. In spite of it, in spite of all the efforts of abolition, to the discomfiture of all their prophecies of failure, the Colony at Cape Palmas has increased year after year in numbers and prosperity. A more gradual and uninterrupted advance, from the few unsheltered emigrants, who landed from the Ann in 1834, to a happy and thriving community of the most gratifying province, is, the Board believe, unknown in the Annals of Colonization, from the time of the Phœniceans to the present day. Between this Colony and the United States, commerce is yearly increasing the means of communication. The constant presence of the United States Squadron on the Coast, constitutes a tie which seems to bind the colonists to the homes which they have left. Intelligence is received nearly every month from Cape Palmas, and opportunities of sending letters there are as frequent. All this is calculated to create an interest in the colonies in the minds of the colored people of the State ; the intelligent among whom cannot regard with indifference, the effort which is being made to build up a nation in Africa, to which it is not impossible they may have, hereafter, to look for refuge. That this will in time produce an emigration, which, like the emigration from Europe to America, shall bear its own expenses, and shall equal it in amount, the Board entertain no doubt. Every year adds to their firm conviction that the free colored people must remove from amongst us. The present generation may not live to see it. It belongs to that class of great events, which it takes generations, even, to prepare for, and which, when finally accomplished, form eras in the history of nations, and involve the welfare and happiness of millions through future time. It is unjust to charge delay in the progress of such a plan as that of African Colonization, because, in a few short years, the entire free colored population of a State have not been removed from the

homes of their infancy to new ones in a strange land. All that Colonization can do is to prepare such homes. The rest must be the work of circumstances, whose operation is as sure as the coming of to-morrow, although, from day to-day, it may be as imperceptible as the flow of one second of time into another.

The part which Maryland has taken in African Colonization will hereafter be one of her proudest recollections. When the History of the Nations now rising up in Africa shall be written, the name of Maryland will be proudly prominent. Foreseeing the coming of the time, when, the free colored portion of her population must meet the destiny, which ever awaits the weakest of two distinct races, that cannot amalgamate, who occupy the same soil,—the State undertook to provide for them a home, where they might enjoy, in peace and honour, the free institutions of the land which they were obliged to leave. Not only did she furnish means for transporting those who were willing to emigrate, but she has taught them to govern themselves in their new abodes; and, even now, has the satisfaction of knowing, that those, who, on this side of the Atlantic, aspired to no political power, were incapacitated from the enjoyment of any, fill with dignity and credit all the offices of government, at Cape Palmas. Should then, the future, unhappily, bring evil days, to her free colored people, Maryland will be entitled to the credit, and the high honour, of having done all that was in her power to provide against them. All this, as already said, will be told to the lasting honour of our State, and in terms of the warmest gratitude, by those who shall hereafter write the History of Maryland in Liberia. Even now, it is not unacknowledged by the objects of her solicitude; and the strongest hold which the State Society has over the Colony at Cape Palmas grows out of the sense of benefits conferred.

It has been, at times, the duty of the Board to notice, not always agreeably, the relations which existed between the missionaries and the government of the Colony. It is with the sincerest pleasure that the Board are now able to say that they are of the most satisfactory character, and that there is nothing to disturb the perfect harmony which should exist between those, who, in different ways, are laboring in the same great cause.

Before closing their Report, the Board have thought that it would not be uninteresting to the Society to learn, somewhat in detail, the situation of the Colony and the manner in which it is governed.

The territory of Maryland in Liberia occupies the Sea coast, as already stated, from Fish Town on the north-west, to Tabou, some 8 miles east of the Cavally river, a distance of about 40 miles, and extending indefinitely into the interior. The principal town is Harper, which is located on Cape Palmas proper, a rocky promontory, evidently, at some remote time, an island, extending into the ocean about half a mile, by a fourth of a mile at its greatest width, and in a direction oblique to the mainland, to which it is united by a low and sandy beach. The acute angle, formed by the Cape and the main, makes an excellent harbor, and receives the Hoffman river, a small stream navigable for a few miles only by boats, and soon losing itself in the numerous tributaries, which, near its head, drain the surrounding country. Harper contains the Government House and offices, and the public store, and its inhabitants are such of the



Colonists as are occupied in trade or the mechanic arts. Its population is about 800. The soil of the Cape is thin, but sufficiently good for the gardens of the colonists. Descending from the Cape landward, the road now known as the Maryland avenue crosses the beach, already mentioned and pursues its course for a distance of between three and four miles to Mount Tubman, which at this time may be called the frontier settlement. To the right, after leaving the beach, is the station, formerly occupied by the Presbyterian mission, of Fair Hope, the Methodist Episcopal mission house of Mount Emory, and the Ladies School; and opposite to these is the Public Farm. Further on, the farm lands of the colonists begin, and continue, without interval on the Maryland avenue, and Hance road, and Holmes road, parallel thoroughfares, to Mount Tubman Village. Close to this last is the Episcopal mission of Mount Vaughn, situated on a gentle eminence, around which and the Hill on which Mount Tubman stands, the clearings extend on every side. The Maryland avenue, which is the principal highway of the Colony, as well as the parallel and cross roads, are graded and bridged, and kept clean and in order by the adjacent proprietors. The avenue forms an acute angle with the sea shore, and between the two lies Sheppard lake, a fine sheet of water, which extends some 10 or 12 miles in the direction of the Cavally river.

On the Cape, besides the town of Harper, is the native town of the King of the Cape Palmas tribe, and small villages of his people are scattered here and there on the mainland, the relations of the colonists and natives being such as to permit the occupation of territory in this manner, with rare differences between them; a feature of Colonization in Africa which is its peculiar characteristic.

At the extremity of the cape is the light house already spoken of, and Fort Howard; and opposite to the government house, which is nearer the main land, there is a small battery, which commands the landing place and the native town, this last being situated on the pitch of the cape landward.

Fort Tubman is a strong stockade, capable of resisting any force that could be brought against it by the natives.

The military of the colony consists of two uniformed companies, one of infantry, and one of artillery, well drilled and disciplined, and an un-uniformed militia, which meets weekly for the purpose of inspection.

The local government of the colony consists of an agent and assistant agent, appointed by the society, who hold their offices for two years,—a secretary appointed by the agent, annually, and a vice-agent—two counsellors, a register, a sheriff, a treasurer, and a committee on new emigrants, elected by the people. There are minor officers appointed by the agent. The judiciary consists of the agent and two justices of the peace, the latter of whom are taken in rotation from the body of justices, so that each justice is made familiar with the performance of judicial duties.—A single justice of the peace has jurisdiction, criminally, over minor offences, and in all civil cases, where the claim does not exceed twenty dollars.

Male colored people are entitled to vote if they hold land in their own right, or pay a tax of one dollar for the support of education. No one can sit on a jury who does not know how to read and write.

One of the fundamental laws of the colony prohibits the use of ardent spirits. The emigrants who founded it, signed the constitution containing this provision before they left America, and those who afterwards came under the government which they established, were necessarily bound by the law.

On the arrival of an emigrant in the colony, he receives five acres of land, and is allowed to purchase as much more as he wants for the purpose of improving it, at one dollar per acre. Five acres may seem a small quantity; but in the tropical climate and fruitful soil of Cape Palmas, it is found to be abundant for the support of the colonist and his family. Houses are, in many instances, erected by the agent, in anticipation of new emigrants, who receive them at a fixed price, which is appropriated to the preparation of similar accommodation for their successors.

In conclusion, it is proper to say, that all the offices in the colony are filled by people of color. This was a step early determined on by the Board, and which, results have most satisfactorily justified. It was followed, at a later day, and with the same success, by the American Colonization Society, at Monrovia.

Annexed to this report will be found the statement of the treasurer and the balance sheet of the society, and in the appendix, are inserted several articles of interest, and particularly one by Dr. Hall, in relation to the recent treaty between England and France, for the suppression of the slave trade; a matter of great and abiding interest with the friends of colonization and humanity.

By order of the Board of Managers,

JNO. H. B. LATROBE,  
*President Md. S. C. Society.*

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### LATEST FROM LIBERIA.

#### CAPTURE OF THE SLAVER PONS, OF PHILADELPHIA.

We have advices from Monrovia as late as December 27th, by which we learn that Capt. Bell, of the U. S. ship Yorktown, captured the above named ship, having on board 900 slaves, three days from Cabenda; and fourteen days after, landed them at Monrovia, under the care of Dr. Lugenbeel, U. S. agent for the care of recaptured Africans. The slaves are mostly children—all between the ages of 8 and 18—and are represented as being in the most awful condition imaginable; one hundred and fifty having died since the capture of the vessel, although their situation had been rendered altogether more comfortable than it could have been by the original crew of the Pons. It appears that it was the Captain's intention to have taken on board 400 more, had it not been for the proximity of an English man of war. If one hundred and fifty of the nine hundred died, in 14 days, under the kind treatment of the prize crew, what awful suffering must the 1300 have endured, in a long middle latitude passage, under the brutal treatment of a mongrel crew of mercenaries and pirates, which the slave traders are only able to ship? It is too horrible to think of.

The U. S. agent, the colonists, and missionaries of the Methodist Church, all appear to have taken hold in good earnest to relieve the distresses of these poor sufferers.—The members of that mission have

determined to adopt and educate 100 of them of both sexes, and have issued a circular to their friends in the United States to come to their aid, and furnish them with the means of carrying out their merciful and kind intentions.

Does the question occur to any of our readers, What would have been the fate of these poor creatures, had the Colony of Liberia not existed? It is not easily answered.—They could never have been returned to their own homes, and a middle latitude passage would have insured the death of one-half, and such a death too, as no refinements of savage torture could inflict. We ask our abolition friends who made so much noise over the *Amistad* affair, just to give this matter a moment's consideration, and decide the amount or degree of infamy the colonists and colonizationists deserve for being thus instrumental in rescuing these victims from protracted suffering and death.

We make the following brief extracts from the communications of Messrs. Benham and Hoyt to the editor of the *Luminary*; but the actual condition of this cargo when entering the port of Monrovia, if fully delineated, would give but a faint view of the horrible condition of those placed in a smaller vessel, at the close of an Atlantic voyage.

“The decks were literally crowded with poor abject beings. The living and the dying were huddled together with less care than is bestowed upon the brute creation. Here and there might be seen individuals in the last agonies of expiring nature; unknown, and apparently unnoticed. There was no offer of sympathy to alleviate in the least their misery. Their companions appeared dejected, weighed down with their own sorrows. My heart sickens at the remembrance of that awful scene. As I came on the crowded deck, I saw directly in front of me one emaciated and worn down by long suffering to a mere skeleton, pining away and apparently near eternity. I looked over into the steerage. The hot, mephitic air almost overpowered me. At the foot of the ladder, lay two of the most miserable beings I ever beheld. They were reduced, as the one above named, so that their bones almost protruded from their flesh. Large sores had been worn upon their sides and limbs as they had been compelled to lay upon the hard plank composing the deck of the vessel. They lay directly under the hatchway, whither they had crawled, apparently to obtain a little purer air. One I thought dead, until by some slight motion of the limbs I discovered his agonies were not yet ended. The other lay with his face toward me and such an expression of unmitigated anguish, I never before saw. I cannot banish the horrid picture. These were not isolated cases, but as they were those that were first noticed, they made perhaps a stronger impression on my mind. In another part of the vessel lay a little boy pining away, with two others watching over him. They were not brothers, but had been captured from the same place. They had procured a bit of muslin that had probably been thrown away by some of the crew, and had placed it under his aching head for a pillow. Could you have seen them, I am sure the fountain of feeling, would have been broken up and the tears would have forced themselves from their hiding place. For the fourteen days that the vessel had been under the charge of the present commander, they had been assiduous in their care: one or the other of them attending on him constantly, and keeping watch alternately at night for this purpose.—Oh! if I could portray the scene as I saw it, could I present it to your imagination, without any coloring, as it was actually presented to my view, your blood would chill in your veins.—Five had been thrown over dead,

this morning, and many more were apparently just expiring. And yet they tell me, this is comparatively nothing; and I should judge so, if the statement of the captured captain can be relied on. He says that they left some 400 or 500 more at the factory, that he had intended to have taken with him on the same vessel, but was prevented by the proximity of an English cruiser."

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"The Lieutenant had been fourteen days coming up, and during that time they had lost about 150. One in a fit of desperation had jumped overboard as many others probably would have done, if they had had the opportunity. Such was the stench, that we remained but a few moments on board. Long enough, however to see something of the indelible horrors of the abominable African slave trade! It was supposed that a Thermometer would range at 100 or 120 in the hold. Though I did not go down, I saw that with few exceptions they were in a state of entire *nudity*. Several were in a dying condition, and many others were so emaciated that their skin literally cleaved to their bones. Others again had worn their skin through, producing putrid ulcers, which fed swarms of flies.

The sailors pointed me to a group of three little boys, under the bow of the long boat, on deck. One of them was probably eight years of age, and almost in a dying state, and had been pining away for the last six days. Two others, perhaps ten and twelve years of age, were sitting by him, one on either side; watching him with a great deal of apparent sympathy; and administering to him, as they were able. They had procured a small quantity of oakum, with which they had made his bed, and a small piece of muslin for his pillow. They did not leave him night or day, and the sailors always found one of them awake. Through an interpreter, I commended them for their kindness to the little sufferer, and promised to take them to live with me, and that they should bring with them their sick companion. I gave each a slip of paper with my name, directing them to keep them, so that I might know them when they landed.

The elder boys are brothers, the younger was from the same tribe.

During the night the little sick boy died, as did also several others, and was thrown into the sea. When the brothers arrived near the beach they plunged into the water (as all the captives were required to do) and washed themselves, but came out with the slips of paper clenched in their hands. One of these, we have named John Wesley the other David A. Shepard, and have taken them to educate.

On arriving at the beach, small quantities of biscuit and water was given the sufferers. When it was supposed, the danger of depletion was over, water was poured into a log canoe, into which they plunged like hungry pigs into a trough. The stronger, fared the best. Near where I sat, was a small pool of brackish water, in a state of stagnation; altogether unfit to be drank; but on their discovering it, they plunged into it, swallowing its black contents with great avidity.

Several of the citizens succeeded with threats and whips finally, in driving them from it. In walking a half a mile along the beach, several of them lay down to die, but were carried along by their suffering companions, or the citizens."

Dr. Lugenbeel writes, "I have already disposed of 300 of these poor creatures to responsible persons in the colony, including the 100 which I have placed in the care of the Rev. J. B. Benham, Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Mission, to be educated."



## COMMODORE PERRY ON COLONIZATION.

In our last No., we introduced, and called particular attention to a letter from this distinguished gentleman, to the Secretary of the American Colonization Society. We now present to our readers, two other communications from him, addressed some time since to the Editor of a New York daily paper, which we find in the African Repository—not less important and interesting than the letter above alluded to.

## AMERICAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE COAST OF AFRICA.

Circumstances have recently given me opportunities of visiting the settlements established by the American Colonization Society upon the western coast of Africa, and believing you to be an old and steady friend of that benevolent institution, I have thought that it might not be uninteresting to you to have the opinions of an impartial observer, not only in regard to the present condition of those interesting settlements, but in reference also to the prospects of their future growth and importance, and the increased influence they must eventually exercise in checking the traffic in slaves.

As the annual reports put forth by the officers of the Society have kept you informed of the progress made by the colonists since their first establishment, I shall merely remark that the agricultural and commercial interests of the settlements are slowly, but gradually improving, and the settlers are already gathering about them many of the comforts, and not a few of the luxuries and refinements of life.

The several churches of the colony are well attended, and the people appear to be strongly imbued with moral and religious principles.

The laws of the commonwealth are adapted to the wants and conditions of the colonists, and so far as I could learn, are faithfully administered. In a word, the friends and patrons of colonization have ample cause for gratulation and thankfulness that their work of benevolence has been attended with a success so highly encouraging.

In truth I cannot but believe that the colony of Liberia is firmly and permanently established, and that it possesses, at this early period of its existence, the germ of a powerful empire, to be populated by a class of people hitherto unknown, at least to modern times, *a community of blacks destined to enjoy all the advantages of civilization, and to exercise its full share of political influence in the family of nations.*

To make certain this glorious scheme of moral and political enfranchisement of the colored race, nothing more will be required than reasonable aid from the Federal and State Governments, and a fair share of the contributions annually bestowed by the American public for benevolent and religious purposes.

It was warmly recommended by those great men, James Madison, Rufus King, and John Marshall, and by many others of their time, that a part of the proceeds of the public lands should be devoted to the emancipation of domestic slaves and their colonization in Africa.

Now let us suppose that with the aid recommended by the distinguished persons just mentioned, these settlements had by a natural consequence greatly increased in number and importance; how many slaves would have been gladly emancipated by their masters, and how many already freed, who are now grovelling in the United States, would in Liberia have attained to competency and to the independent exercise of their own thoughts, opinions and movements.

Then looking to the influence the present settlements have already exercised in suppressing the slave trade, let us imagine how much greater

would have been that influence if those settlements had been multiplied and extended.

It is useless to talk of destroying this vile traffic in any other way than by belting the whole coast with Christian settlements, unless the European powers should follow the example of the United States and declare it to be piracy, and then faithfully enforce the law.

The only nations who appear to be sincere in carrying out their own statutes for the suppression of the slave trade are the United States and England. So far as regards the treaty stipulations of Russia, Austria and Prussia, they can have no direct bearing upon the slave trade of Western Africa, as the vessels of these nations, even in the pursuit of lawful commerce, are rarely, if ever, seen in this quarter.

Spain, Portugal and Brazil almost openly connive at the constant violations of their treaties, and England has undertaken a new scheme of supplying her West India colonies with African labor by holding out inducements to the natives and re-captured Africans to hire themselves for limited periods to the planter, with the understanding, that they are to have a free passage to and from the Islands; once in the West Indies, and in debt to the planter, but few of them, it is thought, will return to their native country.

I am not one of those who cry out against the institution of domestic slavery because I myself have no property in slaves. It is a curse even the slave holder freely admits, but one which has been entailed on him by English ancestors, and I conceive that he can with no more justice be called upon to relinquish such property without adequate compensation, than he who owns a cargo of sugar or coffee should be expected to throw it into the sea, and for the reason only that it might have been grown, or prepared for market, by the labour of slaves.

The idea of witnessing, in our time, the abolition of slavery throughout the world, is, in my opinion, altogether chimerical, yet the grand design of universal disenthralment is commenced, and every succeeding year will offer increased means of extending the field of labor of the true friend of emancipation. But the progress of the work must, in the order of things, be slow, and generations will pass away before its entire consummation is effected.

Now it seems to me that the cause would be more rapidly advanced by the united and simultaneous efforts of the missionary, colonization and anti-slavery societies, the two latter having in view the same object.

I am aware that hitherto there has been very little harmony of action between these institutions, and that partisan feelings have been engendered which have led to a state of things deeply to be lamented, and I venture to warn those who have the general management of the affairs of these societies to consider how far they are justified in permitting, if they do not themselves cherish, this spirit of intolerance.

We have already seen that the mission schools established beyond the influence and protection of the settlements are constantly subjected to the annoyances and threats of the natives, who have shrewdness enough to discover any misunderstanding between the missionary and the settlers, and are always ready to seize upon such occasions to demand additional presents from the former in consideration of renewed promises of protection, which are broken by the natives as often as they think they can do so with impunity.

Is it not therefore the interest as well as the duty, of the missionaries and colonists to harmonize and pull together?

Let colonization and gospel instruction advance hand in hand, aiding and supporting each other, and we may look with certainty to the most happy results.

I can bear full testimony to the good intentions of the colonial authorities, and to the piety and zealous ardor of the missionaries; indeed could it be expected that men of education and promise should leave their own happy country to encounter on the pestilential shores of Africa hardships, disease and almost certain death, if they were not influenced by motives of pure religion and of courageous zeal?

A FRIEND TO COLONIZATION.

#### THE SOCIETY FOR THE COLONIZATION OF FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR.

Every one who has made himself acquainted with the history of this Society, and has watched, from year to year, the progressive growth and improvement of the settlements established by its means, upon the western coast of Africa, must, if he be free from prejudice or fanaticism, come to the conclusion, that some wise Providence has hitherto directed its proceedings, and sustained its friends in their unflinching perseverance.

And when we turn to the history and character of its founders, such men as Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Adams, Tyler, Clay, Marshall, Rufus King, Crawford, Southard, Smith, Thompson and Rutgers, and many others of the same exalted standing, ought we to require surer proof that its foundation has been built in wisdom, and that the genius of our country has taken its destinies under her especial care?

I will not pretend to assert that all has gone well with the Parent Society and its auxiliaries; that lukewarmness has not sometimes marked the proceedings of their agents, or that many of the people, sent out at their expense, have not become listless idlers; yet in looking to the general operations of the society and its auxiliaries, and to the fruits of their labors, no one can say that the benevolent efforts of these institutions have not been amply rewarded.

The American settlements in Africa, like all other new colonies, have had their periods of war, of pestilence, of straitened means, and of despondency; and, notwithstanding all these drawbacks, they have gradually advanced in the improvement of their condition and the enlargement of their resources, and as the forests adjacent to the settlements have been felled, and the noxious vegetation removed to make room for cultivation, death has been a less frequent visitor among the settlers; indeed to those who have become acclimated, there is no longer apprehension of the local fever, and in other respects the climate is remarkably salubrious.

These remarks apply to colored people and not to whites; to the latter, it would seem that the Almighty had, for some wise purpose, interdicted this part of Africa.

There is something very extraordinary in the peculiarities of the climate of western Africa, and especially of that part lying upon the sea. *There every human being*—I might almost say, every *living* creature, not indigenous to the particular region referred to, is destined, in the course of a short time after arrival, to pass through the ordeal of the acclimating fever, and what is yet more remarkable, children and the young of quadrupeds, are subject, a few weeks after birth, to the same mysterious visitation.

All quadrupeds, and most kinds of domestic poultry, whether brought from beyond sea, or from the interior of Africa, pass through the same ordeal, and with much more fatal results.

I shall not undertake to account satisfactorily for these indisputable facts, but may as a mere matter of speculation, hazard a conjecture that this strange sickness is produced by the inhaling of an atmosphere charged with animalcules, invisible to the naked eye, which are generated by the decom-

position of animal and vegetable matter, and when received into the lungs and stomach, turn it into a noxious and poisonous compound, causing dangerous sickness.

In this opinion, I am strengthened by the singular fact, that persons sleeping on board of vessels at anchor near the shore (not within rivers) are rarely taken sick, though they may visit the shore without risk at any time during the interval of a two hours' morning sun and evening twilight. Now this is accounted for to my mind by assuming that this poisonous atmosphere possesses vitality, and is in operation only at *night*: and that its deleterious properties in coming in contact with the sea, or the exhalations therefrom, are rendered innoxious. That the sun's rays entirely destroy these animalcules or render them harmless, and it is only when the immediate influence of that luminary is withdrawn at night, that they are again revived, or what is more probable, created in new myriads to fill the surrounding space, until the return of the sun again to destroy, or drive them to the foul sources whence they come.

I am aware that this theory is far from being a new one, and that it may be met now, as doubtless it has been many times before, by the seemingly conclusive argument, that if the system is thus invariably affected for once, why should it not be so always, when exposed to the same malaria. To this I can only venture a presumptive opinion, that it becomes habituated to the reception of this noxious atmosphere, and has acquired the power of resisting its poisonous effects.

In regard to the supposed power of the system to resist the effects of this miasma, after the first assaults, I refer only to the constitution of the colored people; I believe it to be impossible for any white person to become acclimated in western Africa.

Some of our medical friends in New York, may smile at this bold attempt of a sailor to venture an opinion upon a subject of which, it may be said, he can know very little; and I am willing to deprecate their ridicule by promising not again to meddle with a discussion which of right belongs to the learned of their profession.

It is now twenty-two years since the colony of Liberia was first commenced: every one knows that the first attempt to form a settlement was made at the Island of Sherbro: and in that disastrous undertaking, a large portion of the first adventurers fell victims to the climate; among them their estimable chief, the Rev. Mr. Bacon.

Before his death, he had requested his friend, Lieut. — then 1st lieutenant of the U. S. ship Cyane, to observe the coast to leeward, (the Cyane being bound in that direction,) with a view to the selection of a more suitable place for a settlement.

On reaching the neighborhood of Cape Montserrado, or Mesurado, Lieut. — was struck with the magnificent appearance of the coast, and especially with the promontory on which the town of Monrovia now stands.

This location appeared to be admirably adapted for the commencement of a colony, and with a view of ascertaining the practicability of purchasing the cape, and part of the adjacent lands, he opened a communication with some of the chiefs and head men of the country, but as the ship to which he was attached, took an early departure from the neighborhood, he could proceed no further than to ascertain that the natives were willing to dispose of a part of their territory to the colonists, at a reasonable compensation.

This information he communicated to the Secretary, and Lieut. R. F. Stockton was sent out in command of the U. S. schooner Alligator, to assist in securing the purchase, and establishing the settlers at this more favored position. This desire was ultimately effected through the joint efforts of



Lieut. Stockton and Dr. Ayres, Colonial Agent, and much praise was deservedly given to the former for his valuable aid in bringing about results so favorable to the cause of colonization.

Subsequently, the late Captain R. S. Spence, in command of the *Cyane*, also rendered important service to the colonists, by assisting in the erection of a fort for their defence against the attacks of the natives.

When the settlers first took possession of this beautiful headland, it was covered with a dense and luxuriant growth of timber and jungle, inhabited only by wild beasts, and according to the superstition of the natives, by one of their ideal beings worshipped by them, who, in their imagination, possessed the semblances and attributes of His Satanic Majesty; and to whom their adorations were addressed in deprecation of his wrath.

It will be seen in the sequel, that both the devil and wild beasts were soon routed by the colonists, and in their stead godly people, with the usual attendants of domestic animals, took possession of their sylvan retreat.

Since the period just mentioned, not only has a flourishing town been erected upon the summit of the cape, but others along the coast and in the interior, have been planted, and are daily growing into importance: having already their churches, school houses, &c.

The town of Monrovia, the seat of Government of the early settlements of Liberia, has several churches, a court house, one or more missionary establishments, shool houses, printing presses, a number of substantial warehouses and shops. In a word, it may be considered to possess with its safe and capacious roads (in which it is not unusual to see three or four merchant vessels at a time) all the conveniences of a small sea-port town in the United States.

The colony at Cape Palmas, first commenced in 1833, by the Maryland Colonization Society, is, if we consider the brief period of its existence, equally prosperous. Harper, the principal town being somewhat similarly situated to Monrovia, but having the advantage of a more convenient communication with the interior.

Throughout Liberia, the laws of the commonwealth are faithfully administered; the people are moral, and all seem to be deeply imbued with religious principles.

In conclusion, I may remark; that however insignificant these settlements may appear to the casual or indifferent observer, they possess, in my opinion, the elements of a powerful empire, to be established like that of ancient Israel, under the immediate auspices of the Almighty. It is impossible for any reflecting person acquainted with the history of colonization to look upon recent events, casting, as they do, "their shadows before," without being strongly impressed with the idea that there is something in store for the good of Africa, which is destined to bring about extraordinary results.

The aid of all good people should therefore be invoked in support of a scheme of benevolence which recommends itself to the liberality of every American, and is reconcilable in its objects with every worldly charity, and with the doctrines of every religious denomination.

NAVY.

### ANOTHER EXPEDITION.

We learn that the American Colonization Society intend to send out another vessel this Spring, to sail from Norfolk.

## EXCEEDING LIBERALITY FOR A MODERN ABOLITIONIST.

We make the following extract from "Dr. Pond on slavery," which we find in the *Christian Mirror*; not that the admissions therein contained are of great importance in themselves; but merely because they come voluntarily from an abolitionist, a circumstance *worth noting*.

The plan of colonizing free people of color, with their consent, on the coast of Africa, was conceived, I have no doubt, in wisdom, and is calculated to answer important ends. It has already put a stop to the slave trade for hundreds of miles along the coast, and will continue to stop it, so far as the colony is extended. It must have an effect, too, and a powerful effect, on the ultimate civilization and Christianization of benighted Africa.—The very fact of a colony of enlightened, civilized Christian people, of their own color, and in their immediate vicinity, must have an important influence upon the native tribes. A more direct influence, I trust, will also go out from the colony, to extend the light and blessings of the gospel into the regions of surrounding darkness.

Then the scheme of colonization has not been without its influence, in our own country. It has led already to the liberation of thousands of slaves, and will lead to the liberation of thousands more. It opens a channel for this purpose, which is unobjectionable even to Southern minds, and leads to inquiries and discussions on the subject in general, which can hardly fail to exert a favorable influence. Thus much I have deemed it my duty to say (and more in truth might be said) in favor of Colonization.

But, after all, Colonization is not alone an adequate remedy for American Slavery. It is not at this time so considered, even by its most devoted friends. The millions of colored people in this country can never all of them be colonized, on the coast of Africa. It is not desirable that they should be. They cannot be spared from the plantations at the South. They are needed there not as slaves, but as free, cheerful, compensated laborers. It is obvious that some other influence, aside from mere colonization, must be brought to bear upon American slavery, or its termination will not soon be realized.

## ARRIVAL OF MISSIONARIES.

On Monday, the 8th, the ship Roanoke anchored. A sister came into our office, saying, "Missionaries, Missionaries." "They are gone to the Mission House." We dropped our pen, up hat, and started over there. To our joyful surprise we had the pleasure of being introduced to the Rev. J. B. Benham, Superintendent of the Liberia mission, and wife; Rev. W. B. Hoyt and wife; and the Rev. W. B. Williams, Principal of the Monrovia Seminary, and wife. All well: though as might be expected, somewhat fatigued. After numerous greetings by other brethren and sisters that came in, all joined in prayer, in thanksgiving and praise to God, for his goodness in conducting our brethren and their wives across the mighty deep, thus affording new agencies with which to renew and carry forward our work in this mission. It was a good time. God was present: and we felt as if we had a renewed evidence of his blessing and our success. May we all live and labor to realize it for Christ's sake.—*Africa's Luminary*.



